

REMARKS

The office action dated August 21, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and the application has been amended in a sincere effort to place the same in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application, and allowance of the application in its amended form are requested based on the following remarks.

Applicant retains the right to pursue broader claims via a continuing application under 35 U.S.C. 120.

Indication of Allowed Claims:

In paragraph 6 of the outstanding Office Action the Examiner stated that "Claims 2-5, 9-11, & 15-24 are allowed."

Objection to Claim 1:

In paragraph 2 of the outstanding Office Action the Examiner objected to Claim 1 due to informalities. Specifically, the Examiner stated:

In line 2, "where" should be changed to --wherein--.
In line 6, step (a), "where" should be changed to --wherein--.
In line 8, step (a), "where" should be changed to --wherein--.
Appropriate correction is required.

In response thereto, lines 2, 6 and 8 in Claim 1 have been amended herein in the manner requested by the Examiner. Therefore, Claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present objection is thus respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph:

In paragraph 4 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 6-8 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner states:

- A. Claim 6 recites the limitation "a first catalytic component" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- B. Claim 7 recites the limitation "the first catalytic component" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

- C. Claim 8 recites the limitation "the first catalytic component" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- D. Claim 12 recites the limitation "a third catalytic component" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- E. Claim 13 recites the limitation "the third catalytic component" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- F. Claim 14 recites the limitation "the third catalytic component" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

In response thereto, Claim 1 has been amended herein to recite "the catalytic component being a first catalytic component" and thus provide antecedent basis to "the first catalytic component" now recited in amended Claim 6. Because Claims 7 and 8 depend from amended Claim 6, it is believed sufficient antecedent basis for these claims now also exists.

Similarly, Claim 2 has been amended herein to specifically recite "at least a third catalytic component." Because Claim 12 depends from Claim 2, sufficient antecedent basis in now believed to exist for amended Claim 12 which now recites "the third catalytic component" (Claim 12 has also been amended to clarify an informality). Because Claims 13 and 14 depend from Claim 12, it is believed sufficient antecedent basis for these claims now also exists. Additionally, Claim 9 has been amended in a similar manner.

Based on the above, Claims 6-8 and 12-14 are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection are respectfully requested.

Newly Presented Claims 25-51:

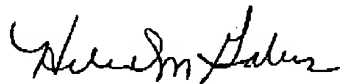
Claims 25-51 are newly presented herein. Because these claims include the same or similar subject matter as Claims 1-24, these claims are believed to be in condition for allowance as well.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that Claims 2-5, 9-11, & 15-24 have been allowed, and Claims 1, 6-8, 12-14 and 25-51 are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims at an early date is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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